(b) The proposed amendments will be operative only after the Bill is adopted as an Act of the Parliament.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of the answer to part (c) above, does not arise.

Project proposals under Swajaldhara Scheme

*138 SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of project proposals submitted by West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa under Swajaldhara Scheme since its inception, State-wise; and

(b) the State-wise number of proposals cleared so far?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Swajaldhara Scheme was launched in December 2002. Only in the year 2002-03, proposals were obtained from the State/UTs and cleared by the Government of India. The State-wise details of proposals received from West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and cleared under Swajaldhara in the year 2002-03 are as under:—

Sl. No.	State	No. of proposals received	No. of proposals approved
1.	West Bengal	115	08
2.	Bihar	0	0
3	Orissa	474	287

The Swajaldhara Guidelines were issued in June, 2003 which stipulated that henceforth all proposals under Swajaldhara would be approved by the District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC). State/UT-wise allocations are made by Government of India and communicated to the States and Union Territories, which, in turn, are required to make the district-wise allocations. Accordingly, balance proposals which had earlier been received in the Government of India and could not be considered in the year 2002-03, were returned to the respective State Governments for consideration on priority as per the Guidelines issued in June 2003 within the allocated amount communicated to the State for the year 2003-04

In the year 2003-04, a sum of Rs 366 64 lakh and Rs. 471 50 lakh has been released to the States of Orissa and West Bengal respectively as 1st instalment under Swajaldhara Funds were not released to Bihar during the year 2003-04 as the State Government did not provide the requisite details as per Swajaldhara Guidelines Details of proposals (including number) cleared by the District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC) are maintained at the District level

Setting up of desalination plants

*139 SHRI V NARAYANASAMY Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up desalination plants in different parts of the country to augment supply of drinking water in rain starved States like Tamil Nadu and others, and

(b) if so, who will fund for the setting up of these plants?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance Government *inter-alia* states that "to put an end to the acute drinking water shortage in cities, especially in Southern States, desalination plants will be installed all along the Coromandal coast starting with Chennai". The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation have requested the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu to submit proposals for setting up the desalination Plants in coastal cities/towns facing water scarcity

As far as rural sector is concerned, full powers have been delegated to the State Governments for sanctioning and implementing projects for tackling water quality problems, including salinity, for which 15% of annual funds allotted to them under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), are specifically earmarked.

Atrocities on women

*140 SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that atrocities on women are on the rise in the country,